

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MC-02 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /064 W

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R 141059Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9356

INFO DIA WASHDC

EUCOM VAIHINGEN GER

CINCUSAFE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 12144

TAGS: MASS, NATO, FR

E.O. 11652: GDS 31 DEC 81

SUBJECT: F-104 REPLACEMENT ISSUE (U)

1. AGENCE FRENCH PRESS REPORTS OF BELGIAN PM TINDEMANS' VISIT WITH FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING ON FRIDAY, 9 MAY, QUOTED TINDEMANS AS SAYING THAT MORE CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE NECESSARY BEFORE A CONSORTIUM DECISION COULD BE MADE ON THE F-104 REPLACEMENT ISSUE. TINDEMANS IS FURTHER QUOTED AS STATING THAT "BELGIUM HOPES THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO CREATE A EUROPEAN AERONAUTICAL INDUSTRY. IT IS ALWAYS WITH THIS IN VIEW THAT WE WORK." TINDEMANS FURTHER STATED THAT WHILE THE "IDEA" EXISTS, THE PATTERN, NOTABLY CONCERNING PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT AND IN RESEARCH UNTIL THE END OF THE CENTURY, "IS NOT READY."

2. CONCERNING THE DUTCH POSITION, THE BELGIAN PM  
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NOTED THAT, IN HIS OPINION, "ALL WAS STILL POSSIBLE,"

ADDING THAT "IN PRINCIPLE, THE FOUR COUNTRIES SHOULD MAKE THE SAME DECISION, BUT, IT IS NECESSARY TO FOLLOW THE AFFAIR."

3. TINDEMANS NOTED THAT HE HAD COME TO PARIS WITH THE MISSION OF CONSULTING THE MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY ON THEIR CONCEPTS OF EUROPEAN UNION.

COMMENT: THIS VISIT ALLOWED TINDEMANS TO APPLY SOME LAST MINUTE PRESSURE ON THE FRENCH TO DO SOMETHING POSITIVE FOR EUROPEAN UNITY. THE FRENCH HAVE ARGUED THAT THE CONSORTIUM SHOULD PURCHASE THE F-1E AS A SIGN OF EUROPEAN UNITY, AND THE BELGIAN PM HAS NOW APPARENTLY OFFERED THE FRENCH AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN EXACTLY WHAT FRENCH COMMITMENTS THAT ENTAILS FOR THE FUTURE. WHILE THE PRESSURE TO SELL THE F-1E IS HIGH, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THE FRENCH WILL BE WILLING TO MAKE ANY MAJOR CONCESSIONS, EITHER POLITICAL OR MILITARY, TOWARD EUROPEAN UNITY IN ORDER TO CLINCH THE DEAL WITH THE BELGIANS UNLESS THE BELGIANS COULD BRING ALONG THE REST OF THE CONSORTIUM.  
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## Message Attributes

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